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SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, WHA, WHA/AND, WHA/PDA
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EMBASSIES FOR PAO/IO

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [OPRC](#) [KIRC](#) [KPAO](#) [EC](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ECUADOR UNREST

1. "Go Home!" an opinion column (04/18) by Diego Araujo Sanchez in Quito's center-left "Hoy" (circ. 38,500)

Quote: "The straw that broke the camel's back was the return of [ex-president] Abdala Bucaram; the capital has not forgotten his scandalous corruption nor the offensive shamelessness of his short tenure. The President made the worst mistake of his live conspiring with Bucaram [for his return] and placing himself in his and Alvaro Noboa's [PRIAN party leader] hands. When government-aligned congressmen assaulted the Supreme Court of Justice and the Constitutional Tribunal and parceled out the Electoral Tribunals, they all yelled victory, but it was just a short-lived and useless triumph. Gutierrez, who arrived in Carondelet with the promise of fighting against corruption, and who has repeatedly stated he fights against oligarchies, took off his mask and showed his hypocrisy by favoring the impunity of a former president charged with corruption and forging an alliance with him."

2. "Trampling on Democracy" an opinion column (04/18) by Grace Jaramillo in Quito's leading centrist "El Comercio" (circ. 70,000)

Quote: "Requiem. Democracy ceased to exist officially on Friday at 9:31 PM when the President died attempting to respect the Constitution and make everyone else respect it. Since that day, the leader has a new presidential sash that reads, 'I am the state.' Under this premise he assumed the functions that correspond only to the National Congress..

"Quito has become an [expression of community sentiment], where neither the parties nor the political movements were able to channel the citizens' will and now the only demand is the ousting of Lucio Gutierrez and with him the whole political class. How much longer will the regime endure internal and international pressure?

3. "Gutierrez, End To So Much Deceit," an opinion column (04/18) by Miguel Rivadeneira in Quito's leading centrist "El Comercio" (circ. 70,000)

Quote: The people from Quito are fed up and are putting an end to so much deceit and lies from Col. Gutierrez.

"The popular uprising, without political leaders, is starting to spread throughout the country because we cannot stand any more what the Colonel, his family, friends, and those who enjoy power have done.

"The issue is not only the elimination of the unconstitutional Court, but the ousting of the Colonel who supported it as well."

KENNEY